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PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

UNITED STATES.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY REPORTS.

[Prepared in the Division of Sanitary Reports and Statistics.]

Status and progress of epidemics.

Asiatic cholera.—Since January 1 of the present year, Asiatic cholera has been reported in four countries, namely, China, India, the Russian Empire, and Turkey. In China, an isolated case, a fatal one, has been verified. This occurred in the early part of March, at Tientsin. From India the reports of cholera have been confined to Bombay and Calcutta. At Bombay, the last case, a solitary and fatal one, occurred March 28. Calcutta is the seat of an epidemic which during one week in January caused 169 deaths, diminished in virulence in February and March, and has lately assumed more alarming proportions, as is evidenced by the reports that in the week ended March 25, 510 deaths from cholera occurred in that city, and 58 deaths from April 1 to 8. In the Russian Empire the epidemic is an inheritance from the previous calendar year.

Southeastern Russia, including the province lying on the Asiatic side of the Caucasus Mountains, is the infected country. From beyond the Caspian Sea, in the neighborhood of the Desert of Kara Kum, no cases have been reported since January 1. In European Russia the epidemic is limited to the extreme southeast. The provinces of the Don and Ural Cossacks have been infected, the disease being epidemic in Uralsk in January and February. Astrakhan, the location of the mouths of the Volga River, and Saratov, also on the banks of the Volga, have suffered from the ravages of the disease. In trans-Caucasia, Batum, on the Black Sea, and Baku, on the Caspian, together with Tiflis, located inland on the railroad connecting the two ports, were reported infected, the malady being particularly prevalent at Baku, where several lines of steamers call. Erivan, inland south of Tiflis, was so scourged at the beginning of the year that there was an average of about 500 deaths a month, with a mortality of 70 per cent.

The cases occurred particularly among the men engaged in the construction of the Djulfa Railroad.

The prevalence of cholera in southeastern Russia is due to its introduction from Bagdad, where it broke out in January, 1904, appearing at Baku at the end of July, 1904. Bagdad received its infection indirectly from Mekka, from which city cholera spread by land and by sea in the early part of 1902.

In Turkey, since January 1, cholera has been confined to the province of Van, the capital of which, an insanitary inland city, is in constant communication with the port of Trebizond, on the Black Sea. The disease was reported extinct at Van and in the adjacent country March 3. The prevalence at Van was a residue of an extensive epidemic in Mesopotamia, along the route the disease took in its spread from Mekka to Russia. In 1904, when it was at its height, 10,000 cases occurred in Turkey in Asia, with a mortality of about 90 per cent. In Bagdad it prevailed for about a year, causing a complete paralysis of trade and a general flight of the inhabitants. January 2 of the present year cholera had entirely disappeared from Bagdad, according to consular reports.

Yellow fever.—Since January 1, yellow fever has been reported from Cuba (imported cases transferred to hospital with suitable precautions), from Mexico, Panama, Venezuela, Ecuador, and Brazil. The cases imported into Cuba were three members of an Italian opera company. They occurred in January on the Austrian steamship *Dora*, and were imported from La Guaira and Colon, not being of Cuban origin. All of these patients, who were taken ashore with appropriate care, died in Las Animas Hospital, Habana. In Mexico, since the beginning of the calendar year, cases of yellow fever have been reported in the States of Veracruz and Yucatan on the Gulf coast and Oaxaca on the Pacific. The cases in the State of Veracruz, less than a dozen, with a mortality of 50 per cent, occurred at Coatzacoalcos, Texistepec, and in the city of Veracruz, the last case reported being on April 5.

Between January 15 and March 25, 4 cases and 2 deaths were verified at Merida, Yucatan, and a few cases with one death were recorded at Juchitan and Tehuantepec in the State of Oaxaca, the latest being on April 5. From Panama, 2 cases were reported as having occurred at the city of Panama the first day of the year, the continuation of a series of cases extending months back and 1 proved fatal. Until the date of the last report, April 29, there had been 50 cases and 20 deaths. At Colon, 6 cases and 3 deaths were reported between January 28 and April 2. In Venezuela, occasional cases of yellow fever occurred during the winter. The last cases reported (January 7) were at Caracas, La Guaira and vicinity.

In Ecuador, between January 1 and April 13, there were 43 deaths from yellow fever. These deaths were at Guayaquil, the only port of

the Pacific, aside from Panama, in which the disease has appeared during the present calendar year. Brazil, where yellow fever is almost constantly present at all seasons, has furnished its usual quantum of infection. From Para the last cases reported were in January. During the entire winter 2 cases only have been registered from Pernambuco. The disease has been almost constantly present at Rio de Janeiro. There has been an average of about 20 cases a month, with a mortality of 40 to 50 per cent. Once this winter a week passed without a single case being reported, but the hope of an enduring subsidence was delusive.

Bubonic plague.—During the period since January 1 bubonic plague has been reported as present in every continent except North America. The Belgian Government, conforming with the general sanitary regulations annexed to the International Sanitary Convention of Venice, in 1897, officially declared the following regions to be infected with plague: The shores of the Bosphorus, the Sea of Marmora, and the Dardanelles; the Indian Empire; the Chinese Empire; the Island of Formosa; Brisbane and Sydney, Australia; Egypt; Cape Colony; Johannesburg, Transvaal; Natal; the Island of Mauritius; Pernambuco, Rio de Janeiro, and Bahia, Brazil, and Lima, Peru.

In Europe, aside from a case on a steamship at Liverpool, the disease has been confined to the Ural territory, Russia, where the last cases were registered in January, the prevalence being coincident with an epidemic of Asiatic cholera.

In Africa there were a few cases at Port Said, Suez, and in the Tuhk district, Egypt, in the first quarter of the year, as well as in British East Africa. In Cape Colony a single case was reported in February at Cape Town, and 5 cases and 1 death from March 25 to April 1 at East London. In February plague was present at Govura, Mozambique. The disease is distributed along the Asiatic coast countries from Arabia, where a severe epidemic prevails at Aden (nearly 500 cases a month), to the island of Formosa, where the last reports showed a prevalence still existing, which in the year 1904 caused over 3,000 deaths in a population of about 3,000,000.

In Siam there were a few cases, the last reported being in January. At Hongkong 19 cases, all fatal, were reported as occurring during the first quarter of the year. In India bubonic plague is widespread from the coast north almost to the mountains. The reported cases have averaged nearly 200,000 a month, with an enormous mortality.

In South America, where plague made its appearance in 1903 and has never since disappeared, Brazil and Argentina on the east and Chile and Peru on the west coast are the afflicted countries. In Rio de Janeiro the plague epidemic is running contemporaneously with yellow fever. At Para, too, both diseases have been reported since January. During six weeks ending January 7 there were 12 deaths from

plague at Bahia. Single cases have occurred at Guaratingueta, Nictheroy, Santos, São Paulo, and Taubate.

In Argentina plague, mildly prevalent, has been reported all along through the present calendar year. The cities of Buenos Ayres, Leones, San Nicolas, and Santa Fe, and the State of Salta have had visitations, the worst sufferer being Leones, where there were 12 cases.

In Chile the disease has been diffused along the coast from Arica, not far from the Peruvian frontier, as far south as Valparaiso, where a single death was reported in the latter part of March. The greatest ravages have taken place in Pisagua, where an epidemic of great proportions is now raging.

In Peru the epidemic, said to have begun in Mollendo, the port of Arequipa, has spread in such a way as to render the whole coast country suspicious. At Lima there are fresh cases every day. The same unfortunate condition exists at Chiclayo, Eten, Guadalupe, Huan-chaco, and Lambayeque.

In Australia plague has been recently reported from Queensland (Brisbane) and New South Wales. In the insular possessions of the United States, there were 2 cases and 1 death reported as having occurred at Cebu between January 15 and February 25; 15 cases, all fatal, at Manila for about three months ending in March; and 1 death at Aiea, near Honolulu, March 2.

Smallpox.—Smallpox is so widely spread throughout the world that it is difficult to define the limits of prevailing epidemics. It is present on every continent and in the United States is disseminated over the whole country. The tables published in the present number of the Public Health Reports give the figures according to reports received by the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, since January 1.

[Reports to the Surgeon-General, Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service.]

Smallpox on steamship Siberia at San Francisco quarantine, Cal.

QUARANTINE STATION,
Angel Island, Cal., May 15, 1905.

Siberia arrived; case smallpox, steerage; embarked Honolulu; removed to station; vessel partially disinfected; personnel 1,100; released cabin passengers; holding steerage.

CUMMING.

WYMAN, *Washington.*

Transactions on account of yellow fever at Laredo, Tex.

Report from San Antonio—Work of sanitary department during month of April, 1905.

Clerk of Sanitation Gallagher reports, May 12, as follows:

Month of April, 1905.

Premises inspected, 3,359; premises reinspected, 1,790; wells filled, 12; cisterns filled, 9; cesspools filled, 6; houses fumigated, 13; rooms fumigated, 39; cellars fumigated, 2; cisterns fumigated, 3; wells fumigated, 1.